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"That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a "reward: and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up."—MICAH, Chapter vii. verse 3.

DUKE OF YORK.

(Continued from page 347.)

IN all the books of the Holy Scriptures; amongst all the strong descriptions of prevalent corruption, contained in those writings, I know of none more impressive, more characteristic of a rotten state of things, than that which I have taken for my motto to this sheet. I have, however, not selected it under an idea, that it will be found at all applicable to the result of the proceedings, which have, for so many weeks past, wholly occupied the attention of the public; but, on the contrary, with the confident hope, that the reader will be able to draw a pleasing contrast between that result and the sort of actions, to which the prophet alludes, and at which he expresses the displeasure of the Almighty Ruler of the universe, "the God of *truth* and *justice*."——I trust the House of Commons, and every individual of that House, will dismiss all prejudice from their minds, whether it be *against* or *for* the Duke of York; and, I will go further, and say, that I do *believe* that *now*, whatever may have passed before, whatever symptoms of prejudice may have appeared, on the one side or the other, substantial justice will be done, without any regard to the feelings of either the high or the low.

Upon no occasion, perhaps, since the Revolution in 1688, has there existed, in this country, so great an interest, as to what would be the conduct of its government, as that which exists at the present moment. People, in all ranks of life, have from the beginning of the late Inquiry, been alive, in an unusual degree, to all that was passing. The open statement of the Charges against his Royal Highness had been preceded by numerous rumours and reports, which, though, by the impartial and considerate, were looked upon as including, in many cases, at least, great exaggerations, had produced, as it was natural they should, a very great degree of latent discontent; and this discontent was, assuredly, not at all diminished, by the means that were taken to check the freedom of public discussion, with respect to the subjects of those rumours and reports. The charges were, too, received in a manner, well calculated to heighten the interest naturally attached to the intrinsic merits of the case. Instead of opposing them by a direct or implied negative, the friends of the illustrious personage resorted to recrimination, and dealt their charges about so roundly and so widely, and in a manner so little discriminating, that they compelled all those, who were connected with the press, to wish that the result might show the charges not to have originated in that traiterous conspiracy, which was asserted to exist, of which the press was alledged to have been the organ, and in the fate of which the fate of the press appeared to be completely involved. Hence the press has not failed to participate in the public feeling, nor to gratify the public impatience, in the doing of which, with the greatest possible effect, the form of proceeding, injudiciously chosen by the friends of the Duke of York, has afforded it perfect facility; so that, at this moment, even now, before the discussion upon the evidence has taken place, in the House of Commons, there is scarcely a single person in the whole kingdom, who has not weighed the several cases in his mind with as much care as if they had come before him, he being in the capacity of a juror. Not only, therefore, are there, in this case, the circumstances of the accused party being the Commander in Chief of the Army, a Son of the King, and so near to the Crown as to have but two lives between him and the wearing of it himself; not only are there, in this case, these circumstances, of themselves sufficiently interesting, but there are the additional circumstances, mentioned above, rendering, all together, the sum of interest now excited far greater than what has ever been felt, in this kingdom, since the era of the Revolution.

The eyes of the nation are directed to-

wards its rulers in general; towards the whole of its government, king, lords, and commons. Many persons, accustomed to take little or no interest in public affairs, take interest in this affair. The whole mass of the national thought has been set in motion. What will be the conduct of the several branches of the government, is the question that now engrosses every mind; but, in a more direct and particular manner are the eyes of the nation, for reasons too obvious to point out, fixed upon the House of Commons; and I am persuaded, that every man will agree with me, that, in almost whatever light it be considered, the result of the discussion of Wednesday next, will be the most important that this nation has witnessed for more than a hundred years past.

It must have struck every man, who has been long in the habit of contemplating political motives and actions, that the interest and the importance, which discussions in the House of Commons formerly owed to considerations of *party*, now exist but in a comparatively trifling degree. The death of the two great opposing leaders, under whom the people, as well as the members, ranged themselves, may have contributed towards this result; but, the fact is, that, long before the death of Pitt, the attachments of party had become greatly enfeebled, and are now dwindled almost to nothing. Indeed, there is now in existence nothing that resembles party but the name. There are men, who are in place, and others who, upon all occasions, whether right or wrong, censure the measures of ministers, with the sole view of supplanting them. But, in any other sense, the word party has now no more meaning than has the word *Tory*, which no man has any longer the impudence to use. Parties were formerly distinguished by some great and well-known *principles* of foreign or domestic policy. Now, there are no such distinguishing marks; and, as a natural consequence, the people have become quite indifferent as to all considerations connected with party. Whether, as a general proposition, this indifference be a good or an evil, I will not now attempt to discuss; but, I venture to state, not without confidence of its meeting with general assent, that this change in the mind of the nation has not been favourable to the House of Commons, both sides of which united have not now to boast that warmth of popular attachment which each side before possessed. Another consequence of this change, is, that the discontents of the nation do not now, as formerly, operate in a partial direction. It is not upon a part of the House; it is not upon this or that ministry, that the blame now falls; but upon the whole House, and upon all public men: a consideration of great moment, when we consider the crisis in which we now live, and as to the final event of which so much must depend upon the conduct, and, of course, upon the opinions of the people, supposing, which we must, in this case, suppose, that the people will still remain free. Formerly what was disliked by the nation was, by one half of the nation, imputed to one half of the parliament and one half of the public men. Hope was kept alive in the other half, and resentment was counterbalanced by hope. This is no longer the case. There are still persons wishing for a change of ministry, because there are always persons who wish to obtain possession of power and emolument; but, beyond that circle, which, though extensive, is nothing when compared to a whole nation, there are very few persons indeed to be found who have even a wish upon the subject, and absolutely none at all, who sincerely believe that such a change would be attended with any substantial national benefit.

It has long been the opinion of many, that the present state of the representation is such as to leave the people little or no check upon their rulers. Since the year 1780, when the late Pitt and the late Duke of Richmond were the partizans of reform of parliament, this subject has become very familiar to the public. Those who deny the necessity of reform have not, as far as I have observed, actually justified the public advertising of *Seats for sale*; but, they have contended, that the House of Commons, constituted as it is, is quite sufficient for all the purposes for which the constitution intended such a House; and that, though it does happen, some-how, or other, that every ministry, as long as they remain in place; that every set of men, who are *the servants of the king*, have a *majority* in that House, and do carry every question that they please to carry, if it be of any importance to them, or to the crown; though this be allowed, still it is contended, that somehow or other, the representation is a sufficient check upon the power of the crown. In opposition to this doctrine of invisible influence, of effects without causes, and of causes without effects, various instances might be quoted, wherein the power of

the crown has been suffered to bear down all before it. But there has been no occasion since the reign of James II, on which the personal interests of any part of *the family of the king* have been so directly brought within the scope of parliamentary power, as the interests of the Duke of York now are; and, therefore, now, more clearly than upon any former occasion, the people have had, and will have, an opportunity of ascertaining the degree of power which the House of Commons possesses independent of the Crown.

The long and expensive and bloody war, in which we are engaged, and to which no man can see the prospect of a termination, has caused an extension of the taxing system, almost beyond the compass of an ordinary mind's conception. In answer to all our complaints on this score, we are told, that the burthens are necessary to preserve us against the inroads of the enemy. The argument, carried out to its full length, is this: If you do not give the king the means of keeping up an immense fleet and army, Napoleon will conquer the country and will make you more miserable than you now are. As to the words, loss of our *constitution*, and making us *slaves*, we will lay them aside for the present, as not being definite enough for any six men to come to an agreement about their meaning. By the necessity of sacrifices for our own good, we must understand it to be meant, that Napoleon, were he to become our master, would make our situation *worse than it is under the sovereignty of the family of Brunswick*; for, unless this be the case; unless this be the jet of the argument, there is no motive for our resistance, and, of course, none for the sacrifices which we make, and which, by law, we are compelled to make, in order to render that resistance efficient. For, as to *loyalty*, it is an empty sound, unconnected with the *general good*. Kings, like other individuals, have their personal friends; but personal friendship for a king forms no ingredient of loyalty, which means fidelity to the king *as king*; as the guardian of the nation's interest, honour, and renown. Subjects in general know nothing of the king but through the *laws*, and every man, as long as he obeys those laws, is a loyal man, whatever may be his opinion or his feelings with regard to the person, or the family, of the king. Thus, then, it is, I think, evident, that the motive to resist Napoleon, and to make sacrifices for that purpose, will, at last, come to this: *to save ourselves from being in a worse situation than we are in under the family of Brunswick*. Amongst the means, are of course, the keeping of the family of Brunswick upon the throne; maintaining all the just prerogatives of the king, and the like; but the great *end* in view, is to prevent ourselves from being made worse off than we now are. Well then, this being the case, let us examine, a little, *how* we should be worse off. And here it must be first observed, that "*we*," thus used, does not apply to a few thousands of courtiers and placemen and pensioners, for, if it did, no examination would be necessary. It applies to the whole of *fourteen millions of people*. He would, it is said, take away our property; but, *what would he do with it?* He could not carry the land to France, nor the goods; nor could he take from the land its productive quality; nor could he unstring the arms of a labourer; nor would it be his *interest* so to do. No, it is not in *this way* that we should experience much of a change, the manifest interest of the conqueror being to leave the people in general, in the possession and enjoyment of all the property in land and in trade, that they now possess and enjoy. But, without supposing a danger to property, there is quite a sufficient motive for resisting Napoleon, and for making *any* sacrifices that are *really* necessary for that purpose. There is no doubt, that, if he were to succeed in the conquest of England, he would treat us as a conquered people; he would take from us our laws, and give us his edicts in their stead; he would rule us as an absolute monarch; his soldiers would be our masters under him; and we should not dare to complain of any act of his, however oppressive, or however insolent. Yet, notwithstanding this powerful motive to resistance, it is necessary that the people of this country should be convinced; that they should see, daily, proofs, *of the value of what they now possess;* that they should be able to draw a triumphant contrast between what *now is*, and what *would be* in case they were conquered by Napoleon; that they should want no one to *tell* them, that their *constitution* is worth being defended with their last shilling, and the last drop of their blood; that they should feel this from the bottom of their hearts; that they should stand no more in need of being reminded of it, than they do of being reminded of the necessity of eating when they are hungry, or drinking when they are thirsty.

Now, connecting these more general

observations with the subject immediately under contemplation, is it not, with a view to the stability of the throne as well as to the permanent internal peace and happiness of the country, a thing of vast importance, that the decision, upon the case of the Duke of York, should be such as to convince the whole nation, that they have now got; that they possess and enjoy, a system of government, the loss of which would be greatly injurious to them? Is it not of incalculable consequence, that every man should, by this decision, be induced to exclaim: "What would have been "the proceedings and what the decision, if "Napoleon had been our master, and if one "of *his* relations had been thus accused!" The mere circumstance of there being a House of Commons now, and of its being possible that there would be none then, is nothing at all. It is the real effect which only is worthy of attention. Napoleon has his *Corps Legislatif* in France. It is the power which this body possesses, not in theory, but in *practice*, which we are to look to. It is not what it might do, but what it actually does do, that we are to consider. Men do not give their money, or lay down their lives, for a theory. When we are called upon to spend our last shilling and to shed the last drop of our blood in defence of the constitution, it surely never is meant, that we should do this for something theoretical; for a thing that exists in name only! No, but a thing which is our shield against oppression; a thing that secures justice to us; a thing necessary, in short, to our safety and happiness; and, therefore, upon this occasion, where the constitution is to be *put to the test*, it is of the greatest consequence, with an eye to the future as well as the present, that it should stand that test; that it should give proofs of its excellence; that its practice, upon this great occasion, should give the lie to all its enemies. There is nothing which mankind in general dislike so much as partiality in the administration of justice; there is nothing so grating to the mind. As justice is the first attribute of power, so the abuse and perversion of its name and its forms are amongst the wickedest, if not the very wickedest, acts, of which a government can be guilty. When we would give instances of the badness of a government, we are sure to wind up the climax of its sins by saying, that it has one law for the rich and another law for the poor:

"Law grinds the poor, and rich men rule the law,"

forms the close of a long list of national evils, the cause of national degradation and ruin. Partiality even in the distribution of *favours*, when those favours are paid for by the public, is mischievous and hateful enough; but, not a millionth part so mischievous and so hateful, so detestable in the eyes of every just man, and of virtue, as partiality in the distribution of *punishments*. It is mortifying enough in all conscience to see the parasite pampered with the means of rewarding the meritorious; but, to see the great villain braving the laws, while the petty are hanged in chains, is what no man can bear without feeling a desire to see overturned, torn up from the foundation, utterly destroyed and scattered to the winds, the whole of the system and fabric of that government, where such partiality has proceeded. I state this as a general proposition; I say it merely by way of illustration, and not at all in allusion to the case of the Duke of York, or to any anticipated decision of the House of Commons; but, on the contrary, with a confident hope and reliance, that the decision of that House will be strictly just; and, that the House will now prove to the world, that it is not to be swayed, on the one side or the other, by any influence but that which fairly and obviously arises from the evidence taken at its bar.

I presume not to dictate to the House; I presume not to say, what ought to be the substance of its decision, or the mode of its proceedings, on this momentous case; and, indeed, what I am now writing cannot be read by the public 'till after the discussion and the decision have taken place; but, I cannot refrain from offering my opinion, as to the *importance* of the case. It is a thing not to be disguised, that the present situation of the throne, in this country, has in it circumstances very peculiar, to describe them by no epithet of more strong or distinct meaning. In the natural course of things it must require great wisdom at the head of affairs to prevent those circumstances from having an injurious operation towards the throne itself. It has been observed, that long and quiet reigns have, almost always, been followed by times of a different description. The reasons for this are obvious enough to the reflecting mind; and, when we consider the peculiar circumstances, above alluded to, taking into view the general degradation of royalty upon the continent, it is impossible not to be impressed with very serious thoughts with

respect to our own prospects in this particular. From the first, I was of opinion, that wise counsellors would avoid every thing which was likely to give rise to a belief, that the king, or any part of the royal family, wished to use any endeavours whatever to obstruct the course of justice; because, if the people, who would not fail to be extremely jealous upon that score, once imbibed a suspicion of the sort, it would be very hard to remove it, and the consequence of its remaining in their minds is too manifest to need pointing out. Whether the king's ministers have so acted, I must leave the public to judge; but, I am sure, that if all wisdom has not fled from their counsels, they will so act now, now when all the evidence is before the public, and when the only point, of any interest, that remains, is, to know how the ministers, how *the advisers of the king* and their friends in the House of Commons will act.

It is the habit of courtiers and men in power to regard as their enemy, and, what is more, as the enemy of the existing government altogether, every one who opposes any of their measures, or censures any part of their conduct. It is their creed, and that all those, who wish to gain or preserve their friendship, well know; and know it so well, that they are sure never to hear a painful truth from their lips. All those who praise them are friends, all who censure are enemies, of the government. Hence it is, that they never take warning in time; and hence the fall of so many governments and dynasties; a fall sudden to them, but long foreseen and foretold by others. With all the talk about "a conspiracy" in this country, not the smallest proof, not the most distant ramification, has been found during the whole of the long and rummaging inquiry, that has just taken place. But, if there be any such conspiracy; if there be any set of men in this kingdom, who wish to see the House of Commons held in universal contempt, trodden down, and spit upon, and along with it the kingly government and royal family; if there be any such men, the first wish of their hearts must be, that the conduct of the House of Commons should, on this trying occasion; on this occasion when every man in the country is in possession of all the merits of the case, and has his eyes fast fixed upon the House, be marked with that base partiality, which, more than any thing else, excites the hatred and resentment of mankind, and of which, I trust, their conduct will not bear the smallest trace. Men, in possession of power, are too apt to rely wholly upon the means which that power affords them, for the preservation of the power itself. But, that which is not to be accomplished to-day, may be to-morrow. A thousand unexpected events take place in the course of a few years. Few important effects have been produced by one cause, and still fewer have immediately followed the first existence of its real cause or causes. The match is all that meets the eye; but, the match is not the great efficient cause of the explosion and destruction. A government to be suddenly destroyed, must have a people well-prepared; amply charged with mortifications and heart-burnings. If, therefore, the king's ministers are wise; if their love of their country; their regard for their master; and their desire to preserve the throne, be as great as they ought to be, they will not, in the approaching discussion and decision, make use of any influence, other than that of truth, fairly applied. They should bear in mind, they should never lose sight of the fact; that they are *the servants of the king*, with this additional and peculiar circumstance, that they came into power, that they were chosen by the king, for this reason openly avowed, that *they would do*, at his request, what his late ministers *would not do*. It becomes them, therefore, to be doubly cautious upon this particular occasion. Their conduct, whether good or bad, and I do not presume it will be the latter, will admit of, and will receive, a very wide construction and application; they will now, the day after to-morrow (this is Monday), do more good, or more harm, to the government of England, than all the ministers, for a century past, have had it in their power to do.

With what will be done on Wednesday I cannot become acquainted many hours before this sheet will be in the press; but, these observations I have thought it my duty to offer to my readers, and there is, perhaps, an advantage in their having been written while the event, to which they relate, was, as yet, unknown.

I shall now return to my Analysis of the Cases; and, for this week, shall take those cases, which appear to me to be of the most importance, as connected *with the conduct* of the *king's servants* in the House of Commons. I allude particularly to the cases of SANDON and CLAVERING, and shall begin with the former.

CAPT. SANDON'S CASE.

I do not mean his case, or any of his cases, as a jobber, but solely as the possessor of the paper, which was attempted to be made out a *forgery*, which, of the whole of the very interesting proceedings, is certainly the most interesting of all, involving a greater number of persons, and making greater and more clear disclosures as to transactions and motives, which it appears to have been intended to keep from the world.——On the 16th of February, when all the cases had been gone through, as far as Mr. Wardle appears to have intended to go at that time, Mr. Perceval, the king's principal servant in the House of Commons, stated to the House, with a most solemn and pompous introduction, that he was in possession of *a fact*, which he had known of for ten days, and which, he was sure, when it was heard, it would be the general opinion, that it ought to be made known. It was the wish of his royal highness, that it should be made known to the committee, the *time* being left to his (Mr. Perceval's) discretion. The fact, the important fact, was this; that, in the case of Major Tonyn, *a material point in the evidence had been suppressed.*——Now, we must take the report of Mr. Perceval's speech; and I do beseech the reader to pay attention to it; I do beseech him to weigh well every sentence, as he proceeds; for he will find, in the end, that this is the very pivot upon which no small part of the merits of the whole case turns. ——"Mr. Perceval said the fact to which "he alluded was of the utmost import- "ance, and though it had not yet been "made known to the House generally, it "was well known to many hon. gentlemen "on both sides, not only among his friends, "but among those who acted with the hon. "gent. who brought forward this charge. "He had been acquainted with it for "ten days, but for the reasons he would "hereafter assign, had thought it right not "to bring it forward till after the evidence "was closed. He was sure when it was "heard, it would be the general opinion "that it ought to be made known. It "was the wish of his royal highness the "Commander in Chief that it should be "communicated to the Committee; the "proper time to do so being left to his "(Mr. Perceval's) discretion, so that if "any blame was due for the delay, that "blame was his. The fact to which he al- "luded was, the suppression of material "evidence in one of the cases before the "Committee (Major Tonyn's), which as "it now stood was as follows, (here the "right hon. gent. stated the evidence of "Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Donovan, and Capt. "Sandon, in this case, particularly of the "latter, which related to the interview he "had with Major Tonyn, who wanted his "money returned, when he persuaded "him to let the matter rest for a short "time, to see whether or not his promo- "tion was gazetted). He could not ex- "plain the matter he now wished to bring "forward, better than by relating what "had happened. On Saturday se'nnight "Col. Hamilton called upon him with a "letter from Mr. Adam, saying he had "business of importance to communicate. "The communication was to this effect, "that on their arrival from Spain, (Col. "Hamilton and Capt. Sandon were in the "Waggon Train), Capt. Sandon had made "him acquainted with circumstances which "were very material to the investigation "now before the House. When Capt. "Sandon was called to the Bar, he was "desired to inform them of all he knew "on the subject, which he had done with "this exception—he had suppressed the "fact that when Capt. Tonyn had pressed "him for a return of his 500 guineas, he "acquainted Mrs. Clarke with the cir- "cumstance, who told him to go back to "Capt. Tonyn with a note, purporting to "be written by the Duke of York, in "these words: "I have received your "note, and Tonyn's business shall remain "as it is." This note was shewn to Capt. "Tonyn in order to convince him that "Mrs. Clarke and Sandon possessed the "influence they pretended to, and that "the promotion would remain as it was, "unless he suffered the money to remain "to purchase their exertion. Another "note, also purporting to be written by "his royal highness, was sent on the day "when Major Tonyn was gazetted, in "these words—"Tonyn will be gazetted "to night." When making this disclosure "to Col. Hamilton, Sandon said he might "destroy this paper, on which Col. Ha- "milton told him by no means to do that, "but to go to the bar and tell the whole "truth, pointing out at the same time, the "danger he would incur in telling any "falshoods. The latter note had been "delivered to Tonyn. Col. Hamilton, as "advised by Mr. Adam, after giving him "this information, went back to Capt. San- "don, repeated his injunctions as to the "line of conduct he ought to pursue, and "got a copy of the first note. Col. "Hamilton also advised him not to at-

"tend either to Mr. Lowten, or Mrs. "Clarke and Mr. Wardle, who had sent "for him on his arrival in town, to under- "go an examination previous to his being "examined at the bar, but to keep aloof "from all parties. After some consulta- "tion, it was resolved that Mr. Adam "should inform his royal highness of this "circumstance, that we, as members of "parliament and judges in this case, could "not be made depositories of it, but that "it must be made public, and that Col. "Hamilton should again visit Capt. San- "don, and discover whether, as a strong "impression had been made on his mind, "the note really was in the hand-writing "of the Duke of York. Mr. Adam had "accordingly waited on his royal high- "ness, who on being told of the circum- "stance, expressed himself convinced, "that the note must be a forgery, and "wished extremely that the matter should "be thoroughly examined into. As for "the note respecting the gazetting, his "royal highness could not positively say it "might not be his, as he would have writ- "ten such an answer to any letter making "an enquiry on the subject. The next "day (Sunday) Col. Hamilton saw Capt. "Sandon, who said to him, 'You will be "'very angry with me, for since you saw "'me, I have destroyed the Note." "'Good God! exclaimed Col. H. you "'have not surely done any thing so "'rash.'—'It was not of so much conse- "'quence (returned Capt. Sandon), and "'besides they have forgot it.' He had "thus submitted to the House all he knew "of this important affair. The destruc- "tion of the note rested on Capt. Sandon's "word. If it was still in existence, and "could be proved a forgery, it would "shew how people had been imposed "upon by Mrs. Clarke and her agents; "while on the other hand, if proved to be "the hand-writing of the Duke of York, "it would be necessary to call on his "royal highness to explain how it hap- "pened.—After some general concluding "observations, he moved to call in Capt. "Sandon." —— After this Sandon was called to the bar. But, before we proceed any further, I ask the reader, the impartial man, whether it does not strike him as something singular, that Col. Hamilton should go to *Mr. Adam?* Perhaps not; but was it not odd, that Mr. Adam should send him *(with a letter)* to *Mr. Perceval,* instead of to Mr. Wardle? Why, that may not be so very unaccountable. But, how can you account, Reader, for Mr. Perceval's keeping the matter, a matter so very important, from *Mr. Wardle?* From Mr. Wardle, and from the House in general? He told it to Mr. Whitbread and Lord Henry Petty and General Fitzpatrick; but, he did not tell it *to Mr. Wardle, or to Lord Folkestone,* though it related to evidence the most material that could possibly be conceived to exist.—— Sandon was now called in, and being questioned about the existence of the Note, prevaricated in so flagrant a manner, that he was committed to Newgate; but previous to that, the Serjeant at Arms was sent with him to his house, whence the original of the Note, together with many other papers, were brought, and delivered to the House. ——Mrs. Clarke having, in the absence of Sandon, been questioned as to the giving, or sending to Sandon, any note in the hand writing of the Duke of York, says that she does not recollect the Duke's writing any note to her upon the subject, and that none was necessary, because he saw her every day of his life at that time; and, she states, that she never either gave or sent any such note to Sandon, because she was so very careful not to let any of the Duke's writing go out of her hands.—After Sandon came back with the note, he was examined again, and, in this examination, he said that Mrs. Clarke had given him the note to be shown to Tonyn, in order to pacify him, and to prevent him from withdrawing his money.——Then Mrs. Clarke (who, the reader will observe, had been kept from all knowledge of what was going forward), was called in again. The note, addressed to "*George Farquhar, Esq.*" was shewn her, in these words. "*I "have just received Your Note, and Tonyn's "business shall remain as it is*——God bless "you."——She was then questioned as follows:

Do you recollect ever seeing that paper before?—I suppose I must have seen it before, for it is his royal highness's writing.

What reason have you to suppose you have seen it before?—I do not know how it could have got into that man's possession unless I gave it to him, and it was a direction I used very often to get from his royal highness, "*George Farquhar, "Esq.*"

Do you now recollect having given to Capt. Sandon a letter upon this subject?—No, I do not, nor do I recollect giving him that; but I think I must have given it to him, because it must have been in my possession first.

After this, she was questioned a good deal,

as to whether she always wrote the same hand; whether she had never imitated other peoples hands; and the like; and her answers were, that she had, with other women, in laughing, imitated the hands of various persons; but that she never in her life wrote any thing to send out as another's writing.——One *Town*, a Jew, who had been employed by her in the capacity of a painter on velvet, was brought, and said, that he had seen Mrs. Clarke imitate the Duke's signature, but could not recollect, whether it was in the word Frederick, York, or Albany. He said, that Mrs. Clarke told him she could *forge* the Duke's name, and had done it; and that when he told her it was a "*serious* affair," she laughed. He said, that he first mentioned this matter to *Lady Haggerstone* (a sister, I believe, of *Mrs. Fitzherbert*), and that he supposes she mentioned it somewhere, and that, therefore, he was called up to give evidence.——From a subsequent examination of this man, on the 20th of Feb. he denied that an indictment for perjury, at the Middlesex Sessions, was hanging over his head; but, acknowledged that Mr. Alley had made use of strong language towards him; and that either his sister or his brother was now under some proceeding of the sort.——After this the note, the dear little "God-bless-you" billet, was shown to Col. Gordon, who said, "it bore "a very strong resemblance to the Duke's "writing, but whether it was so or not, he "could not positively state." Upon further questioning, he said, that, if he had received a note in that writing, he should, if it had the Duke's signature, have acted upon it.——*General Hope* said, that it appeared to him like the hand writing of the Duke; but whether it really was so or not, he could not undertake to say.——*General Brownrigg* did not think it very like the Duke's writing.——*Mr. Adam* did think it like the Duke's hand writing, but could not speak more positively than that.——Five persons, from the Post-office and the Bank, whose profession it had been, for years, to compare hands writing, with a view of detecting frauds and forgeries, were examined, on the 20th of Feb.; and, let it be observed, that they were called in upon motion of one of the king's servants, Mr. Perceval.——The first, Mr. *Johnson*, from the Post-office, upon being shown the two letters of the Duke, about O'Meara and Clavering, and also the note, and after having had time to examine and compare them well, was asked, whether he thought the note to be in the [illegible] writing as the letters, to which he answered: "*It* "*resembles it so nearly that I should think it* "*was.*"——Mr. *Searle*, from the same office, being asked the same question, answers: "*I think they are the same hand writ-* "*ing.*"——Mr. *Nesbitt*, from the Bank, was of opinion, "*that they were not in the* "*same hand writing.*"——Mr. *Bateman*, from the Bank, says "*there is a marked si-* "*milarity,*" and that, if two instruments had came before him, one in the character of the Letters, and one in the character of the Note, "*he thinks he should have passed* "*them as the same.*"——Mr. *Bliss*, from the Bank, first answered, that "*he should* "*suppose the hand writing to be the same;*" but afterwards said, that he had some doubts, owing to certain letters that he had since seen in the hand writing of Mrs. Clarke, which varied a good deal from other letters of hers.——Now, we must go back, and, beginning with the evidence of Col. Hamilton of the Waggon Train, trace this curious proceeding down to the moment, when Mr. Perceval drew out, and, as it were, discharged the important discovery upon the House.——Col. Hamilton says, that he had no idea of a forgery, for he thought the note to be in the hand writing of the Duke of York; that he has frequently seen letters which he supposed, of course, to be the Duke's writing; that he went to Mr. Adam, because he had long known him to be a very honourable man; that he did not go to Mr. Wardle, because he was not acquainted with him; that he took *a copy* of the note at the request of Mr. Adam; that, afterwards, when Sandon told him he had *destroyed* the note, *he went and informed Mr. Adam of that too*; that, upon the 16th of Feb. some time in the afternoon of the day when Sandon was committed for prevarication, Sandon informed him, that he had *not destroyed the note*; that, upon finding this to be the case, he went and informed Messrs. Adam and Lowten and Harrison of the fact; that he is *not quite certain* that he did mention it to Mr. Adam, but that he certainly desired Mr. Harrison (the Horse-Guards lawyer) to mention it to Mr. Adam.——This brings us down to the evening of Sandon's commitment, and to the conduct of the friends of the Duke on that memorable evening.——Mr. *Harrison* being called in, said, that he, who was employed as a lawyer, in military matters, at the office of the Duke of York, the War-office, and the Barrack-office, had been desired to attend and give his assistance with Mr. Lowten, during the inquiry; that Col. Hamil-

ton told him, on the 16th, that *the note was not destroyed*; that immediately upon that, he came to the House, and, as he thinks, informed Mr. Huskisson of the fact; and that he gave this information before Mr. Perceval made his speech about the supposed forgery.——Mr. *Huskisson* (who was one of the persons in the original secret), says that he, upon receiving the information from Mr. Harrison, communicated it to Mr. Perceval.——But, now we must take the examinations of Messrs. Perceval and Adam from the Minutes, published by the House; for they are of a degree of importance, which leaves almost all the others far out of sight. But, we must first take their Evidence of Monday, the 20th of Feb. and then come to that of Wednesday, the 22nd of Feb.——Let the reader pay attention to every single word of it.

Examination of the 20th.

MR. ADAM.

When did you first hear of the note in the possession of Capt. Sandon?—On Saturday morning, *the 4th of this month*, between 10 and 11 o'clock.

From whom did you hear of it?—I heard of it from Col. Hamilton; Col. Hamilton came to my house on Saturday morning, between 10 and 11 o'clock, before I was out of my bed.

State to the Committee what passed upon that occasion.—Col. Hamilton came to my house between 10 and 11 on Saturday morning, and was shewn up to me. He immediately mentioned to me that he had seen Capt. Sandon at Portsmouth; that Capt. Sandon had communicated with him upon the subject of this Inquiry; he said, that Capt. Sandon had asked him how he should conduct himself; that he had told Capt. Sandon that there could be no rule for his conduct, but one, which was to adhere strictly to truth, to tell every thing he knew, that it would not at all avail him to do otherwise, even if he should have an inclination, because he would be examined, I think he said, by the united ability of the country. He then told me, that Capt. Sandon told him that he had some letters upon the subject of his transactions with Mrs. Clarke, and that he had a note, which is the note in question, *which he believed to be in the Duke of York's hand-writing*; that that note he had shewn to Capt. Tonyn before he was made Major Tonyn, in order to induce him either to keep the deposit which he had made, or to replace the deposit which he had made, I cannot exactly recollect which; that deposit he had threatened to withdraw in consequence of the delay between the first interview he, Capt. Sandon, had with Capt. Tonyn, on the subject of his promotion, which he represented, I think, as being nearly two months; that there was likewise another note, which note had been delivered, as he stated, to Major Tonyn, which was a note saying he was to be gazetted to-night, or in words to that effect. Col. Hamilton told me he had given strict injunctions to Capt. Sandon to preserve the note which he represented as in the Duke of York's hand-writing, and which I understand now to be the note about which there has been so much inquiry here, the original of which has been produced, and every paper. I said to Col. Hamilton, that nothing could be more correct than his instruction; that it still remained to be seen what the terms of the note were, and to be judged of whether it was the Duke of York's hand-writing; I desired Colonel Hamilton, therefore, to go to Capt. Sandon, and to desire to look at the note, *and to take a copy of it*, and to repeat his injunctions in the strongest manner, to preserve all the papers, and among the rest the note. Col. Hamilton returned to my house, I think it must have been considerably before 1 o'clock; it was after 12 or about 12; he told me, that he had repeated those instructions, that he had taken a copy of the note, which he brought to me, which I perused, and found to be in the very terms of the note which has been since produced; and he added, that *according to his opinion and belief, it was the Duke of York's hand-writing*. I then told him that such circumstances must be immediately communicated, and I wished him, therefore, to go to Mr. Perceval, with a note which I wrote, and that I would follow as soon as I could. Col. Hamilton went to Mr. Perceval, which I know, because I found him there, and had told Mr. Perceval the story before I arrived. Mr. Perceval and myself deliberated upon the course to be taken, and having understood from Col. Hamilton's representations (for I believe neither of us ever saw Capt. Sandon till he came to the Bar of this House) that Capt. Sandon had been applied to by Mrs. Clarke, and I think he said Mr. Wardle, but I will not be sure, and Mr. Lowten, to go to them, it was Mr. Perceval's suggestions, and my own, I believe mutually almost, that the most advisable course for us to direct Colonel Hamilton to take, was to instruct Captain Sandon to hold *no further communication with any person whatever till he appeared at*

the Bar of this House, and likewise to instruct him, to preserve the note and all the papers he had spoken of. Col. Hamilton received those instructions at Mr. Perceval's house, and went, as I presumed, to make the communication immediately to Capt. Sandon, which was to be done before 2 o'clock, because Sandon had promised, as we understood from Col. Hamilton, to give his answers, to the persons who had desired to see him, at that hour. After having given these directions to Col. Hamilton, it was agreed by Mr. Perceval and myself, that this matter *ought to be communicated to the Duke of York*, and it was further agreed by us, that the matter should be brought before the House of Commons by us, in case it did not make its appearance in the evidence of Capt. Sandon. I went in search of his royal highness, but it was the evening before I saw him; I communicated the matter to him, he expressed his surprise and astonishment, and declared the *impossibility* of his ever having made any such communication, and wished immediately *to go to Mr. Perceval;* we went to Mr. Perceval's together, where he made *a similar asseveration*, and again *at Col. Gordon's*. I did not see his royal highness again till between 3 and 4 on Sunday the 5th, and I did not see Col. Hamilton until Sunday at 1 o'clock, when I saw him for the purpose of learning whether he had executed the delivering the instructions to Capt. Sandon in the manner that Mr. Perceval and myself had required; Col. Hamilton told me that he had delivered them in the very terms; that Capt. Sandon had said, that he, Col. Hamilton, might depend upon his, Capt. Sandon's, obeying his instructions; but that he would be extremely angry with him, or extremely enraged with him, I am not sure which was the expression, for he had already disobeyed one of his instructions, *he had destroyed the note;* upon which, according to Col. Hamilton's representation, he said, Good God, have you destroyed the note? Of course I expressed myself to a similar effect to Col. Hamilton when he made the communication to me respecting the destruction of the note. I went to Mr. Perceval, according to appointment made the day before, and communicated to him this fact, as stated by Col. Hamilton; this became again *the subject of our deliberations*, and we *again determined* that it was our duty, *as Members of Parliament*, to bring the matter forward, leaving it to ourselves to judge in some measure, with regard to the *time* of bringing it forward; and in order that there might not be *a possibility of supposing* that we brought it forward or kept it back according to circumstances, it was determined to make the communication to certain Members of this House. Accordingly the facts, as I have now stated them, were communicated to Lord Castlereagh, to Mr. Canning, to the Attorney and Solicitor General, to Lord H. Petty, to Mr. Whitbread, and to Gen. Fitz-patrick. This brings the fact down to the transaction in this House.

When you stated the circumstance of this note to the Duke of York, did the Duke state *that he never had written such a note* with a view of influencing Captain Tonyn, as it has been represented by Capt. Sandon, or that he *had never written such a note at all to Mrs. Clarke?*—The Duke of York stated, that he was *perfectly sure that he had never written such a note;* that he had not a recollection of it at all.

Did he state to you, that he had never written to Mrs Clarke upon the subject of military affairs?—He always stated to me, that, to the *best of his recollection*, he had never written to Mrs. Clarke on the subject of military affairs, and that, if he had done it, it must have been *very rarely*.

Have you any objection to state what were *the grounds* of your withholding this communication from the House till the period it was brought forward?—The ground that influenced my mind was, that I thought if the communication had been brought forward at an earlier period, it might have *embarrassed the course of proceeding* in the Inquiry, at the instance of the gentleman who had set it on foot, and that, in considering the whole circumstances of the case, justice would be better obtained, whatever the effect of that note might be, by keeping it back till the period when it was allowed to transpire. I can only say now what were my motives and reasons for that conduct; that was what influenced me in the opinion I gave in consultation with Mr. Perceval upon that subject. I mentioned that I did not see the Duke again till three or four o'clock on Sunday; at one o'clock on Sunday I was informed, by Col. Hamilton, of Sandon's having declared the note to be destroyed. Between three and four o'clock on Sunday *I informed the Duke of York of that fact.* I think it right to state that as a material fact in the case.

You have stated, that one motive which you had for keeping back the mention of this note to so late a period, was, lest you should *embarrass* the gentleman who

brought forward this inquiry, by the premature disclosure of the note; explain to the Committee *how* that disclosure would have *embarrassed* him *more than the cross-examinations which took place, when the Witnesses appeared at the Bar?*—I considered this note, and the transaction respecting it, the disclosure respecting its destruction, to form one of the most *extraordinary features* that I had ever known of in any case. If I had been in the course of examining Witnesses much in this proceeding, I should have avoided cross-examining to that fact, thinking the mode that was adopted a more satisfactory means of bringing it forward; and I believe it will be found, that there was no cross-examination of Sandon to that fact, nor any thing that could lead to it; and therefore, answering to the motive, and not to the fact, I can only say it does not strike me that this stands upon the same footing as the ordinary cross-examination of Witnesses, according to my conception.

Why should its being *an extraordinary feature* prevent its being presented at an early period; is it *usual* for extraordinary features to *be kept back in evidence* in Courts of Justice, when they relate to the evidence that witnesses examined in chief, are giving to the Court?—I conceive, that being possessed of a fact of this sort, which I found it my *bounden* duty, in conjunction with Mr. Perceval, *to bring before the public*, whatever its consequences might be, and which the Royal Duke, I believe, had expressed a desire to Mr. Perceval, should be brought before the public, that I had a right *to exercise my discretion*, in conjunction with Mr. Perceval, to bring it before the public at the time that, according to that discretion, we should think the best, meaning *honestly* and distinctly at all times, to bring it before the House.

You have stated, that you thought that the purposes of justice would be best answered by not bringing this fact before the House sooner than it was brought; will you explain *how the purposes of justice were likely to be best answered by the delay in bringing forward the circumstances respecting this note?*—I can only state how I think the purposes of justice would be best answered; I cannot be so presumptuous as to say that the purposes of justice were best answered, but in my opinion they were, because it brought this particular feature of the case distinctly, clearly, and unembarrassed, before the House; that if it had been mixed up in cross-examination, or brought forward in that shape, it neither would have appeared so distinct, *nor have appeared so clearly the determination of the persons bringing it forward.*

MR. PERCEVAL *examined.*

Have you heard the statement of the hon. gent. lately under examination, and do you wish to add any thing to that statement?—I am not quite certain that I heard the whole. If it is wished that I should state the motives that influenced my mind, not in keeping this back, but in not bringing it forward before, I conceived the case that was to be made against the Royal Duke *was closed.* When the communication was made to me, I thought at the first it was a very extraordinary circumstance; and when I found that the note was, as the Witness represented it, destroyed, coupled with the *direct assertion of the Royal Duke*, that this note *was a forgery*, I thought it to be a forgery, and I determined to act upon the supposition of its being such, and upon that impression, and with a view the better to detect it, if it were so, I thought it better that all the Witnesses that could in any degree have been concerned in that transaction, should have told their own tale to the Committee, before they were in any degree informed, by me at least, or by the course that we took, of our being in possession of any fact, or inclined to make use of the information we had of any fact; it might break in upon their own plan of narrating it to the Committee; if it had been a single case, instead of a variety of cases, that were brought before the Committee, I apprehend that there could be no question; that on the part of the defence to that charge, *those who interested themselves in the defence*, could not be called upon to produce any part of the evidence which they thought material, till they had the whole of the case that was to be brought against *them* laid before the Court; and considering how the whole of these cases are, by means of the same Witnesses, more or less, being brought forward upon them all; considering from that circumstance how they were all connected, I conceived it would be better that this information should not be given till it was closed.

Was the introduction of this evidence settled, upon the supposition *that the note* was *actually destroyed?*—Certainly my impression was, that the note *was actually destroyed*, and it was *after* that impression was conveyed to me, that the note was actually destroyed, that I concurred with my hon. and learned friend in thinking that it was equally necessary that fact

should be brought before the Committee; and perhaps I might be permitted to add, that, feeling there was *a considerable degree of awkwardness in the appearance of being backward* to bring forward at the earliest period a fact so important as this fact was, we did think that *our own honour would hardly be safe*, unless we made a communication not only of the fact, but of our determination to produce it in the manner in which we did.

This is very good, indeed. I beg every one to read it over twice, at least, every day for a month. If I had but a parrot, I would make her learn to say it over a thousand times a day.——Mind, they thought the note was *destroyed*, before they told any soul of its existence, except *the Lord Chancellor*.——Now, let us hear what they said on the 22nd of February.

Examination of the 22nd.

MR. PERCEVAL.

Would you wish to correct or alter any part of the evidence you gave on Monday, relative to this transaction?—I do not recollect any part of the evidence I gave on Monday that I would wish to correct or alter; if the noble lord, in consequence of the information he has now collected, would wish to ask any other question, I will give an answer.

When you made the statement to this Committee, of the destruction of this note, had you heard that the note was not destroyed?—When I made the statement to the Committee, I had received such a communication as my hon. friend has just mentioned, and I did in the statement that I made to the Committee, if my recollection does not extremely fail me, state that I did by no means know whether the note was destroyed or not, and that statement I certainly did make in consequence of the information I had but recently received, for, except from that recent information, I had strongly impressed upon my mind that the note was destroyed.

State who the persons were to whom you had given information respecting this note?—I can state several, but I cannot undertake to be certain that I can state them all; I communicated it to the Solicitor General, to the Attorney General, to my Lord *Castlereagh*, to Mr. *Canning*, and I think I mentioned it to Mr. *Yorke*, and I am pretty confident that I mentioned it to others; I mentioned it likewise to the *Lord Chancellor*; I mentioned it to my *Lord Liverpool*, and I mentioned it to *Mr. Huskisson* and *Mr. Long*, and they concurred in the opinion that Mr. Adam should communicate it to some friends of his on the other side of the House; and I believe that to every one of the gentlemen whose names I have mentioned, I did state at the same time my opinion, that from the first moment that I had heard of the existence of this note, I felt it to be my clear duty not to be the depository of such a secret; that I formed that opinion upon the first day that it was communicated to me, before I understood it to be destroyed, and that *as soon as I did know that it was destroyed*, which was the next day, I THEN communicated it to the different persons that I have mentioned, but I believe that no person did know of the existence of the note *till I heard it was destroyed*, except I believe *the Lord Chancellor*, when I had reason to believe it was in existence. Before I heard that it had been destroyed, *I determined* to communicate the fact, so that the note, if it was not destroyed, should be extracted by the evidence at the Bar; and when I heard that it was destroyed, I still continued to act upon upon that determination, and made that determination known. In the examination that I made of the witness (Sandon) at the Bar, I had in my mind, the whole time of that examination, the various points of fact which the witness had communicated to Col. Hamilton, and if the witness had not at last confessed that the note was not destroyed, I should, unquestionably, have asked him, whether he had not communicated to Col. Hamilton that very morning, that it was not destroyed.

Now, reader, you have the whole of the evidence, or, at least, all that is in any wise material, of this Case, fairly before you. It divides itself into two distinct branches; that which relates to the *origin of the note*, and that which relates to the conduct of those, who, being in early possession of the fact, *kept it from the House until so late a period*.——As to the first, there are only two persons, namely, General Brownrigg and Mr. Nesbit, who discover any dissimilarity at all, between the Duke's acknowledged hand writing, and the hand writing of the Note. Other evidence against the authenticity of the Note there is none; and it cannot have escaped the observation of any reader, that the manner, in which Mrs. Clarke gives her evidence relative to the Note, is strongly indicative of conscious truth.

As to what Town says, it amounts to nothing, even if there were no ground to doubt of his general veracity. It will be observed, too, that when a person *forges*, it is for some weighty purpose, and with a desire to make sure as to the effect. This Note, as evidence, is of great importance; but, as a thing intended for the purpose of pacifying Major Tonyn, it was very poor indeed. If Mrs. Clarke had thought it worth her while to forge, would she not have forged something more full and satisfactory? Would she not have put the Duke's *name;* and, above all things, would she not have forged an address to *herself*, and not to "*George Far-*" *quhar*, Esqr.?" How was Tonyn, the person to be imposed upon by the forgery, to know that this was the address, under which the Duke sent his letters to Gloucester Place?——Against the internal evidence of the hand writing, evidence quite sufficient, of itself, for conviction in the ordinary course of law, and evidence unshaken by any of another sort that has been produced; against this evidence, we have, indeed, the *positive assertion* of the Duke of York, conveyed to the House though Mr. Adam, which Duke of York solemnly avers, that he never, in his life, wrote any such note.——The reader will duly weigh the one against the other, and I have not the smallest doubt, that he will not be long in coming to a just conclusion.

But, important as this Note is, as matter of evidence; important as it evidently is in settling the point, whether the Duke had the "*slightest suspicion*," of jobbing for promotion being carried on by his mistress; still it is beyond all measure, more important, as having given rise to a series of actions, on the part of the king's servants and others, such as that which have been brought to light in the examinations of Mr. Perceval and Mr. Adam.——The facts speak so plainly for themselves, that no commentary, or summary, is necessary; but, I cannot refrain from giving a short view of the case. ——On the 4th of Feb. we see Col. Hamilton, of the Waggon Train; a person in the army, and in the receipt of a monstrous income from his office; in possession of the important fact, that Sandon has a note, *in the hand writing of the Duke* (for such Hamilton says he thought it), relating to the promotion of Major Tonyn, and said by Sandon to have been shown to Tonyn, in order to prevent him from withdrawing money destined for Mrs. Clarke. This note was a thing of the very first importance; and Hamilton saying he so regarded it, went to communicate the knowledge of its existence to . . . . . to whom? Not to Mr. Wardle; not to the gentleman who brought forward the charges; but, to Mr. Adam, the avowed, the gratuitous adviser, of the Duke of York.——Well, the fact, the important fact, is now in the breast of *a member of parliament*, of one of the *judges* in the case. And what does he do? Why, he sends Colonel Hamilton to . . . . . to whom? Not to Mr. Wardle, not to the gentleman, who brought forward the charges, and who had the "*heavy responsibility*" of proving them hanging over his head; no, not to Mr. Wardle; but, to Mr. Perceval, one of the *servants of the king*.—— Mr. Adam and Mr. Perceval (both members of parliament, both judges in the case) now hold a consultation, and what is the result of that consultation? Why, that Hamilton should advise Sandon to hold no communication with any other person till he came to the bar of the House; that the matter should be brought before the House of Commons; but, *first of all*, that it should be *communicated to the Duke of York*, to the party *accused*, by two of his *judges*, before it was communicated *to the House*, which was accordingly *done*.—— Stop here, reader; pause a while; think well of this before you go any further. They thought it quite right to communicate this very important fact to the *accused*, though they tell you that they expressly advised that Sandon should keep it and every thing else from the *accuser*.——Oh! faith, I had like to have forgotten, that they charged Digby Hamilton; expressly charged Digby to tell Sandon *to preserve the note*; to be sure to *preserve* the note; not to fail to *preserve* the note, which Digby thought was in the Duke's hand writing. Digby was, indeed, to repeat all his own former salutary advice to Sandon, but was to be sure to tell him to *preserve*, that is to say, *not to destroy*, the note, which Digby Hamilton *thought to be in the Duke's hand writing*.——Alas! see how frail poor human nature is, and how unavailing, in certain cases, are all the precautions of wisdom. Digby comes to Mr. Adam, on the 5th of Feb. the very next day, with the sad tidings, that the note, the important note, is *destroyed*, and of his having exclaimed to Sandon: "Good God! have "you destroyed the note?" —— In to council again upon this. Away goes Mr. Adam to . . . . . to Mr. Wardle?——No.

To the House? No. But to Mr. Perceval again. *Again* they deliberate, and again *determine* to bring the matter before the House; but reserving to *themselves* to judge of the proper time; but, in order that there may not be a possibility of supposing that they ever, in any case, meant to suppress it, they *now* determined to make the communication to certain members of the House. One of them made the communication to certain members of his side, and the other to certain members of his side; but, neither of them ever communicated it to any soul, except the Lord Chancellor, TILL AFTER THEY BELIEVED THE NOTE TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. Reader, write that fact up over your mantle piece. Read it a hundred times a day. ——Well, did they now communicate the important fact to Mr. Wardle? No. To Lord Folkestone? No, no; the *Accuser;* the person with "*heavy responsibility*" hanging over his head; the member to whom "*infamy*" was to attach, if he failed to prove his charges, had not the fact communicated to him.——At last the hour arrives; the fulness of time arrives, and the great fact of the *destroyed note*, the *suppressed evidence*, the *forgery*, is to be poured out upon the devoted heads of Mr. Wardle and Mrs. Clarke, when (as if the father of lies himself had exhausted his skill in vain upon Sandon) Mr. Adam and Mr. Perceval, but a few minutes before the statement is made, learn, and, doubtless, to their inexpressible satisfaction, that the note *is not destroyed*.

> "All ye gods, who rule the soul;
> "Styx, through hell whose waters roll," &c.

Well, in plain prose, out came the note; aye, the very identical note; the dear little "God-bless-you" billet; the sequel of which production, we have already seen. ——Now, then, I shall leave the reader to make up his mind upon this everlastingly to be remembered transaction; and trouble him with only one observation, as to what would have been the consequence, if the Devil had insinuated into the mind of Sandon to destroy the note *in reality*. In that case, the flat denial of the Duke; his positive assertion; his solemn asseveration, that he had never written any such note, would have been placed, not in opposition to the hand writing of the note itself, as it now is, but in opposition to the bare assertion of Mrs Clarke, which assertion would have come discredited by the very suspicious circumstance of her associate Sandon having destroyed the note, and that, too, in direct opposition to the injunctions laid on him by the friends of the Duke, through Colonel Hamilton.

DOCTOR O'MEARA'S CASE.

THE case of General Clavering will require more room, than I have, at present, to spare; for, on various accounts, it is a case of primary importance. I shall, therefore, take the case of the Doctor, which lies in a smaller compass.——MRS. CLARKE, in her evidence of the 9th of February, stated, amongst other things, that she was applied to for *a deanery* and *a bishoprick*. Having so said, she was, as usual, pressed on, with the apparent prospect of detecting her in falshood, till she came to state the name of Dr. O'Meara, who applied to her to get him made *a Bishop*. At first, this fact rested upon her bare word; and, while that was the case, many persons disbelieved, or affected, at least, to disbelieve, her statement; but, as usual, this attempt to throw discredit upon her evidence only tended to put her upon her mettle; to set her to work to rummage out other testimony than her own.—— She stated, on the 9th of February, that Dr. O'Meara, who wanted to be a Bishop, applied to her; that she communicated the Doctor's offer to the Duke of York, together with all the Doctor's documents; that the answer of the Duke was, that the Doctor had preached before the king, and that the king did not like the great O in his name; that she does not recollect the precise sum that the Doctor offered, but that she might recollect, though not at this moment; that the Doctor's application to her was made in 1805, the very night that the Duke was going to Weymouth; that the Doctor called upon her the moment the Duke had left the house, at midnight; that she thinks he must have watched the Duke out, as he had seen his horses waiting in Portman Square, and then, coming in just as she was upon the stairs, said it was a very good opportunity, for he was going to Weymouth immediately, and asked her to come down stairs again, and write him *a letter of introduction* to the Duke, which she did.——On the 13th of February, she brought to the bar a letter of the Duke of York, written to her from Weymouth, which letter tells her that Dr. O'Meara had applied to him (the Duke) in order to be allowed "*to preach before royalty;*" that he, the Duke, will put him in the way of it if he

can; and that, as the ground of this, the Doctor has delivered to him *her* letter.—Not content with this proof of her influence as well as of the intercourse, she rummages out a stray document of Dr. O'Meara, which had accidentally remained in her hands, which document is no less than a testimonial in favour of Dr. O'Meara under the hand of *the Archbishop of Tuam*, which testimonial states, that the writer has received satisfactory assurances, that the Doctor is "a gentleman of most unexceptionable character, in every respect, of "a respectable family, and independent "fortune." —— Thus the proof, in the Doctor's case, is quite complete, unless the reader should be of opinion, that the positive evidence, as to the fact of a tendered bribe, be not sufficiently corroborated by the letter of the Duke of York to Mrs. Clarke, and by the letter of the Archbishop of Tuam being found in her possession. ——To the Doctor's case there hangs a tail, and for the sight of which tail, at the present moment, the public are indebted to the COURIER.———My Readers will not blame me for having been sparing in dissertations upon *puffs*. I have, not less than a hundred times, had to point out the shameful, the scandalous, the infamous deception of the people through the means of the press. The most complete puff I ever heard of, one that far surpasses any thing that Mr. Sheridan had an idea of when he wrote the Critic, or, to go still farther, any thing that either he or his son has ever practised in reality, was a puff of a Lord, who is now no more, and whose name I will not mention. This lord, who had written a pamphlet about Ireland, under a feigned name, and who was very anxious to get some employment under government, was continually puffing himself off in the newspapers, and at last, he got so completely the master of all inward shame, as to prepare, with his own hand, a paragraph in nearly these words: "While others, of comparatively "trifling merit, are eternally thrusting "themselves forward to public notice, and "puffing off their petty pretensions to "place and power, it is Lord ——'s lot, "to do good by *stealth*, and *blush to find it "fame.*" —— Reader, do you not feel for the man? Can you conceive how a man could bear his existence, under the contemplation of such a paragraph, written with his own hand? Yet, I assure you, that the fact is as I have stated it.—— From this we come to the famous puff of Dr. O'Meara, who did get in the way of "*preaching before Royalty*," at Weymouth, and who had no mind that the thing should remain unknown, as you will see when you have read the following article, inserted in the Morning Post, or Nabob's Gazette, under the head of Weymouth, Oct. 3, 1805.——"The Rev. Dr. O'Meara "preached on Sunday an excellent Ser-"mon (from Rom. ch. xii. v. 5.) on Univer-"sal Benevolence. He explained with "great eloquence on the relation which "the *public* and *private* affections bear to "each other, and their use in the moral "system.—He inveighed with peculiar "energy against the Savage Philosophy "of the *French Deists*, who propose to "erect a System of Universal Philanthopy upon the ruins of the *private affections* which regard kindred, friends, benefactors and the poor, thus inverting "the eternal order of Nature, by violently "transferring all the lovely train of social "affections from our relatives and friends "to distant and unknown myriads. Whilst "under these vague terms of attachment "to, and of advancing the general good, "the practice of every debasing vice "finds a shelter, and the perpetration of "every horrid crime a subterfuge.—We "wish our young Ecclesiastics would "arouse themselves, and shake off that "mental languor which oppresses them "in the pulpit, and shew themselves *in "earnest.—Sacred Eloquence* is certainly in "*this Country* feeble and unimpressive; "no other excellence can supply the want "of animation.—That sweet charm, that "*celestial unction*, which Christian oratory "demands, this Gentleman possesses in an "eminent degree. '*His lips are touched "with the live Coal from off the Altar.*'—The "King was very attentive, and stood for "nearly the whole of the sermon, (which "we never observed before), and *expressed "his high approbation to the Earl of Uxbridge "and others, whilst the Queen and Princesses, "and the whole audience were melted into "tears.*"—"Now," says the COURIER, "connecting the application of Mrs. Clarke "to the Duke in favour of Dr. O'Meara, "with the Letter from the Duke, stating "that he will endeavour to accomplish the "Doctor's wish of preaching before Royalty, and the above sketch of the discourse which the Doctor did preach before Royalty, *Mrs. Clarke will have the "credit* of having been the cause of a Sermon upon Universal Benevolence having "been preached before the Royal Family, "which produced a great effect upon the "King, and melted the Queen and all the "Princesses into tears." —— Amongst

other things, which the Conspiracy, the Jacobin Conspiracy, wishes to accomplish, is, we are told, the overthrow of the *Church*, including, of course, Doctor O'Meara, who possesses the *celestial unction*, and whose "lips are touched with the *live coal* from off "the altar;" aye, those very lips, through which had passed the offer to Mrs. Clarke. Why, John Bowles and Redhead Yorke may say what they please about "our "holy religion" being in danger from a Jacobin Plot; but, will they have the impudence to say, that transactions like these ought to be tolerated, let *what will* be the consequence of removing the means of their existing? Perhaps they will; but, they may be assured, that that impudence will only tend to hasten the cutting up of the corruptions.——Dean Swift gives us a caution against your gentry with "the "*celestial unction;*" and, it is no small compliment to the discernment of *the king*, that he was not to be imposed upon in this case; for, though he might express his objection merely to the great O, yet there is no doubt, that he saw the whole drift of the preacher, and pretty fairly estimated his character as well as his talents.——It should further be observed here, that the Duke does not speak with any great *confidence* even of being able to get the Doctor the opportunity to preach before the king. When it came *there*, the way was full of difficulty. The matter was delicate. *And this, in justice to the king*, the people should bear in mind.

MISS TAYLOR'S CASE.

And here I have to beseech the attention of the public, and the exercise of their best feelings, towards, and in behalf, of a person, who appears to me to merit not only their compassion, but their efficient protection.——The evidence, which she has given, is before them. They will have seen, that, from first to last, it was clear, precise, consistent, and bearing all the features of truth and honesty.——They will also have observed, that Mr. Wardle declared in the House, that, when he told her, he should want her evidence, she said, that, "*if she told the truth*, she knew "it would be to the *ruin of herself and her* "*dearest connections*, and that she hoped he "would not force her forwards."——After every effort that was made to find out grounds of imputation against her, it is notorious that not the smallest grounds were discovered, and that while she stood ornamented with truth and sensibility, the only fault of her life was her having lived upon terms of intimacy with Mrs. Clarke, with that Mrs. Clarke, with whom a prince was living, and with whom we find a *countess* in the closest habits of friendship.——What Miss Taylor foresaw, as the consequence of her evidence, has *(I state it upon unquestionable authority)* actually come to pass.——She and her sister, after much pains and difficulty, had succeeded in establishing a school, at Chelsea, by which they hoped to be able to support themselves. Since she appeared at the bar of the House, she has lost all her scholars, the number being *twelve;* her goods have been seized for rent and taxes due, and she is now actually in danger of a prison, though the whole of her debts do not exceed *a hundred and fifty pounds*.—It is true, that the rent and taxes and debts were due previous to the inquiry; but, the forcing of her before the House of Commons, caused the loss of her scholars; that is to say, the loss of the only means which she had, or could be supposed to have, of ever paying any of those demands. Viewing her in this state, not only of insolvency, but of *irretrievable* insolvency, her creditors would naturally fall upon her, and therefore, to the circumstance of her having been *compelled* to give evidence, and to make a full exposure of all her connections and acquaintance, and to that circumstance *alone*, she owes her ruin, and her present danger of actual imprisonment.——It is not for me to point out, nor is my local situation calculated for the carrying into execution, any precise plan for the relief of this unfortunate and hardly-treated young woman; but, I think it my duty to recommend her case to the public, who, I am sure, will not suffer her to sink into the lowest depths of misery. The payment of her debts is the first thing necessary; because upon that, perhaps, even her life may depend; and that, I think, ought to be followed by the raising of money sufficient to secure her a small annuity. There have been few appeals of this sort made to an English public in vain; and, as far as my recollection serves me, there never was one made with fairer or stronger claims upon public justice.

Botley, Thursday, 9 March, 1809.

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